



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

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Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1720-MC-FFS

DATE: September 14, 2016

TO: Iowa Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Providers, Case Managers, Department of Human Services (DHS) Service Workers, Supervisors and Service Area Managers

APPLIES TO: Managed Care, Fee-for-Service (FFS)

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Approval of the HCBS Waiver Settings Statewide Transition Plan (STP)

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

In March 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued regulations that define the settings in which it is permissible for states to pay for Medicaid 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and 1915(i) Habilitation services. The purpose of the regulations is to ensure that individuals receive Medicaid HCBS and Habilitation services in settings that are integrated in, and support full access to, the greater community. This includes opportunities to seek employment and work in competitive and integrated settings, engage in community life, control personal resources and receive services in the community, to the same degree as individuals who do not receive HCBS.

The state is responsible for the development and implementation of a STP to ensure full compliance with the CMS regulations. A proposed STP was posted for public comment in February 2016. The IME reviewed and responded to the public comments in March and on April 1, 2016, submitted a draft STP to CMS that incorporated the public comments and feedback received.

Over the past several months the IME has been working with CMS to make technical corrections and clarifications to the submitted transition plan. On August 10, 2016, the IME received notice from CMS of the initial approval of the STP. The approved STP and the CMS initial approval letter are available on the DHS web page, [Waiver Draft Transition Plans and the Statewide Transition Plan.](#)¹

Questions or comments concerning the initial approved STP should be submitted in writing to: HCBSsettings@dhs.state.ia.us or mailed to Brian Wines, Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, 100 Army Post Road, Des Moines, Iowa 50315.

¹ <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/HCBS/TransitionPlans>